

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC

COGARD

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SUBJECT: MAY 20 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. HANOI MFA SPOKESMAN URGES INDONESIA TO REMAIN ON ICCS AND "HELP STRENGTHEN PEACE" IN SVN, BUT REPEATS CRITICISM OF INDO'S "UNILATERAL INITIATIVES" IN CARRYING OUT INSPECTIONS WITHOUT AGREEMENT OF OTHER ICCS DELEGATIONS (AFP, WP).

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2. SVN OFFICERS AT BEN CAT ATTRIBUTE PARTICULARLY HEAVY NVA ARTILLERY BARRAGE AND ASSAULT ON BRIDGE TO 84TH ANNIVERSARY OF HO'S BIRTHDAY. ATTACK REPELLED BUT HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES FOR FOURTH DAY IN STRATEGIC

CORRIDOR BETWEEN SAIGON AND KHMER BORDER (AP, NYT). MCCOMBS (WP) FROM BENCAT SEES THIS IMPORTANT DISTRICT TOWN IN DANGER OF FALLING, QUOTES WESTERN DIPLOMATS THAT OFFENSIVE TIMED TO HO'S BIRTHDAY. US AND OTHER WESTERN OBSERVERS DISCOUNT SAIGON REPORTS THAT COMMUNIST GENERAL OFFENSIVE NOW UNDER WAY. MCCOMBS DESCRIBES RAGING BATTLE WHERE "HUNDREDS" KILLED AND WOUNDED, COMMUNIST TANKS ARE CLOSER TO SAIGON THAN EVER BEFORE, AND NVA AA FIRE BELIEVED RADAR-CONTROLLED. RESIDENTS OF AREA LEAVE UNDER GVN DIRECTION WHILE OBSERVERS AND PEASANTS WATCH BATTLE FROM NEARBY HIGH GROUND. GVN REINFORCEMENTS POUR IN AND MANY TALK OF COUNTERATTACK

SOON." WESTERN OBSERVERS SEE COMMUNIST USE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS AND SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE SUPPLY ROUTES FROM NORTH REMAIN OPEN AND IN USE.

3. COMMUNISTS LAUNCH HEAVIEST AND MOST WIDESPREAD ATTACKS SINCE C-F, HITTING AT LEAST 13 MAJOR BASES AND CITIES AND INCLUDING ROCKET AND MORTAR BARRAGES AGAINST HUE, ACCORDING TO MILITARY OFFICERS. MILITARY SOURCES SAY VC SAPPERS DYNAMITE 250,000 GALLON TANK AT NHABE, SVN'S LARGEST FUEL DEPOT (WP).

4. SUN'S WU, FROM HK, REPORTS CABLE INTERVIEW IN WHICH SIHANOUK DENIES RUMORS THAT KHIEU SAMPHAN OVERSHADOWS HIM AND ASSERTS THAT HARMONY BETWEEN REBEL FACTIONS "BETTER THAN EVER." PRINCE PREDICTS VICTORY BEFORE 1975, SAYS IT IS "DELAYED SLIGHTLY" BY MASSIVE US AID TO PP, AGAIN REJECTS POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. DENIES SPECULATION THAT HE WAS DISPLEASED BY PRC'S RECEPTION OF SAMPHAN AND IS UNHAPPY IN CHINA, STATES THAT SAMPHAN'S RECENTLY-COMPLETED TOUR WAS TO SHOW WORLD THAT HE IS "NOT A GHOST" AS GKR CLAIMS. WU COMMENTS THAT SAMPHAN TRIP SEEN AS PAVING WAY FOR BATTLE IN UNGA THIS FALL OVER CAMBODIAN SEAT. UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THIS SUBJECT, SIHANOUK PREDICTS 80 PERCENT CHANCE OF WINNING "DECISIVE VICTORY." PRINCE ACCUSES USSR AND EE COUNTRIES OF NOT "PLAYING AN OPEN GAME" WITH HIM SINCE THEY CONTINUED RELATIONS WITH PP, AND USSR HAS "NOT REFRAINED FROM JOINING" OTHER POWERS TO SEEK NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA. REITERATES THAT HIS FORCES ARE PREPARED TO FIGHT PROTRACTED WAR UNTIL "U.S. AND THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT" ARE DEFEATED TOTALLY.

CHINA

5. AP MOSCOW SAYS PRC DIPLOMATS HAVE TOLD WESTERNERS

THERE THAT THREE SOVIET HELICOPTER PILOTS DETAINED IN CHINA PROBABLY WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL FOR ESPIONAGE, ACCORDING MOSCOW DIPLOMATIC SOURCES. WESTERN SPECIALISTS SAY SUCH TRIAL WOULD BE "SHOCKER." SOME DOUBT PILOTS WILL BE PUT ON TRIAL, AND SEE PRC STATEMENTS AS PART OF POLICY OF MAKING SOVIET SQUIRM. RECEIVING WESTERN COLLEAGUES THIS WEEK, CHINESE NOT ONLY SAID TRIAL WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE, BUT ALSO RECALLED PREDECENT OF US AIRMEN CAPTURED IN CHINA DURING KOREAN WAR. DISPATCH QUOTES DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAYING CHINESE TOLD SOVIET ENVOY IN PEKING THAT PILOTS "WILL BE DEALT WITH UNDER CHINESE LAW" (PHINQ).

6. AFP (HK) REPORTS RADIO PEKING BROADCAST THAT THOUSANDS HAVE BEEN MOBILIZED FOR RELIEF WORK IN EARTHQUAKE-STRICKEN AREAS OF SZECHUAN AND YUNNAN (NYT). RADIO ADDED THAT TWO DAYS AFTER MAY 11 QUAKE, COMMUNE MEMBERS HAD PLANTED MORE THAN 30 ACRES OF CROPS, COMPLETING SPRING SOWING IN TIME, DESPITE QUAKE (WP).

7. NYT CARRIES PHOTO, MADE RECENTLY IN PEKING, SHOWING "AILING" CHOU EN-LAI ATTENDING OUTDOOR CEREMONY FOR CHINESE DIPLOMATS. OTHERS PICTURED ARE YEH CHIEN-YING, WANG HUNG-WEN AND CHIANG CHING.

8. AP TOKYO CITES PEKING BROADCAST REPORT OF LU HAN'S DEATH LAST MONDAY AT AGE 79 (PHINQ). NYT ITEM RECALLS LU'S DEFECTION FROM CHINATS BECAME VERY EVIDENT UNCLASSIFIED

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IN WEEKS FOLLOWING SHIFT OF CAPITAL TO TAIPEI, ALTHOUGH LU'S ANTI-CHIANG MOVE WAS EVIDENT FOR SOME MONTHS AS HE HAD BEEN ACTING WITH VIRTUAL INDEPENDENCE AS YUNNAN GOVERNOR.

HONG KONG

9. CHITRIB'S KIRK, IN HK, FINDS "ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE IS IN TROUBLE. AND THE BIGGEST SOURCE OF THE TROUBLE IS THE YOUNG ENGLISH POLICE OFFICERS WHO COME HERE SPECIFICALLY TO MAKE THEIR FORTUNES -- OFF BRIBES FROM NUMEROUS LITTLE PROTECTION RACKETS RANGING FROM TRAFFIC TICKETS TO NARCOTICS." SAYS HK POLICE SPOKESMEN POO-POO SUCH WIDESPREAD VIEWS, "BUT ALMOST EVERY DAY THE PAPERS CARRY REPORTS OF THE BIGGEST POLICE SCANDAL IN HK'S HISTORY" -- CASE OF CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT WHO ABSCONDED WITH SEVERAL MILLION HK DOLLARS.

10. JOC (ITES HK TRA8E DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL REPORT THAT 18.95 MILLION METRIC TONS OF COMMERCIAL CARGO WERE CARRIED IN AND OUT OF HK BY ALL METHODS OF TRANSPORTA-

TION IN 1973; THIS REPRESENTED 10.2 PERCENT RISE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR AND MARKED HIGHEST HK GROWTH RATE RECORDED SINCE 1964.

AUSTRALIA

11. ALP APPEARS TO HAVE WON ELECTION, BUT WITH REDUCED MAJORITY IN HOUSE (WP, CHITRIB). NYT SYDNEY SAYS ALTHOUGH WHITLAM IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN PM FOLLOWING APPARENT NARROW VICTORY, "CHIEF VICTOR SEEMS LIKELY TO BE BILL SNEDDEN" WHOSE PRESTIGE HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY LIBERALS; STRONG SHOWING.

12. WSJ'S HARTLEY, IN CANBERRA, THINKS ALP'S VICTORY WAS SO SLIM IT WILL MARKEDLY INFLUENCE WHITLAM'S ABILITY TO GOVERN. CONTENDS ELECTION RESULTS WERE SHOCK TO ALP, AND EVEN OPPOSITION APPEARED SURPRISED AT OUTCOME. HARTLEY THINKS EVEN THIS NARROW LEAD MAY PROMPT WHITLAM TO PUSH AHEAD WITH PARLIAMENTARY UNCLASSIFIED

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MANEUVERS THAT ARE AIMED AT INCREASING FEDERAL GOVT. INVOLVEMENT IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

KOREA

13. IN SEOUL, HALLORAN (NYT) SAYS FACTS LAID OUT BY SK ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD IN INTERVIEW "DISCLOSED AN ECONOMY, ONCE AMONG THE MOST PROMISING IN ASIA, THAT IS DEEPLY TROUBLED." AMONG "DISTINCT AND CLEAR" SK ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: RAMPAGING INFLATION THAT HAS BECOME POLITICALLY EXPLOSIVE WHEN SET AGAINST SEVERE POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY PARK; SWIFTLY DETERIORATING ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN -- MAJOR MARKET FOR SK EXPORTERS AND MAJOR SOURCE OF IMPORTS AND CAPITAL; CRISIS IN NATION'S BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS, WITH DEFICIT EXPECTED TO DOUBLE THIS YEAR, DEPLETING COUNTRY'S ALREADY MODEST FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES AND INCREASING ITS ALREADY HEAVY FOREIGN DEBT; AND GROWTH RATE THAT IS EXPECTED TO PLUNGE AS YEAR WEARS ON.

14. AP SEOUL REPORTS THREE ROK GUNMEN KILLED POLICE OFFICER AND BARRICADED THEMSELVES IN TEA ROOM WITH ABOUT 40 HOSTAGES, ACCORDING POLICE. ONE GUNMAN TOLD NEWSMEN BY PHONE HE WAS ARMY DESERTER, ANGERED BY BEATINGS AND OTHER ALLEGED MALTREATMENT OF SOLDIERS BY SENIORS. OTHER TWO, WHO SAID GROUP HAD BEEN JOINED BY TWO "FRIENDS," SAID THEY WERE PROTESTING SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN WHICH "YOUNGER GENERATION CAN HARDLY EXPECT TO BE UNDERSTOOD BY OLDER GENERATIONS."

JAPAN

15. MITI SAID SUNDAY IT IS PLANNING TO REMOVE CURBS ON POWER CONSUMPTION NEXT MONTH BECAUSE OF VISIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN NATION'S OIL SUPPLY (REUTER, NYT). NOMURA RESEARCH INSTITUTE SENIOR ECONOMIST TAKEDA REPORTS VOLUME OF JAPAN'S EXPORTS GROWING AT RAPID

PACE, SIGNIFICANTLY, DESPITE WORSENING SHORTAGE OF GOODS AND RESTRICTED PRODUCTION OWING TO CUT-BACKS UNCLASSIFIED

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IN CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY AND OIL (JOC).

BURMA

16. KYODO REPORTS FIVE JAPANESE OIL FIRMS WILL PARTICIPATE IN MULTINATIONAL OFFSHORE OIL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN BURMA. ACCORDING "INFORMED SOURCES," US AND FRG FIRMS ARE AMONG THOSE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN THAT GUB HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PROMOTING (UPI, JOC).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

VIETNAM

17. IN SECOND OF SERIES ON "TRAVELS IN VC ZONE," WP'S MCCOMBS DESCRIBES HIS "FRIENDLIEST OF ARRESTS" AFTER HE AND JOURNALIST JOHN SPRAGENS HAD BEEN IN QUANGNAM PROVINCE VC ZONE FOR WEEK. MCCOMBS VIEWS ARREST AS EFFORT TO DRIVE HOME POINT THAT DESPITE GVN CONTENTIONS TO CONTRARY, PRG IS REAL GOVERNMENT CONTROLLING TERRITORY AND PEOPLE, "AND IS SOVEREIGN." WITHOUT CITING SOURCE, MCCOMBS ASSERTS PRG CONTROLS "FAR MORE THAN HALF" OF SVN AND "PERHAPS" 20 PERCENT OF POPULATION.

JOURNALISTS ARRESTED BECAUSE THEY ARRIVED IN AREA ONE WEEK LATE, AND SPRAGENS USED ANOTHER MAN'S VISA. HOSTS' INITIAL ANGER CAST PALL OVER ENTIRE TRIP, AND MCCOMBS DID NOT FEEL FREE TO ASK MANY TOUGH QUESTIONS; "BACKED OFF" WHEN CHALLENGED. THEY RECEIVED USUAL CLOSE ATTENTION, CARE AND FEEDING, AND HEARD MANY TALES OF HEROIC SACRIFICE, US ATROCITIES, ETC. BACK IN SAIGON, MCCOMBS NOTED TO FRIENDS THE SADNESS AT LOST ROMANCE, LOST YOUTH, AND REPRESSION OF THESE FEELINGS IN CAUSE OF REVOLUTION. US SPECIALIST DOUG PIKE SAID SENSE OF LOST OPPORTUNITIES IN LIFE WAS TREMENDOUS PROBLEM FOR VC.

OTHER NOTES: DESPITE HARD-WORKING DEDICATION, THERE

WAS PLENTY OF LEISURE TIME; MUCH FOOD AND MEDICINE,
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INCLUDING US RATIONS, WAS "IMPORTED" FROM SAIGON
AREAS; THROUGHOUT THEIR TRAVELS THEY ENCOUNTERED
MANY AMPUTEES AND EYELESS PEOPLE. LOCALS GAVE PRECISE
TOTAL STATISTICS OF US, ROK AND ARVN TROOPS KILLED
AND WOUNDED IN AREA COMBAT, AND WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

BRUTAL AMERICAN ATROCITIES. GVN FORCES OCCUPIED
NEIGHBORING HILLTOPS "SINCE THAT CEASE FIRE." MUCH
LAND STILL PRIVATELY OWNED, FARMERS USING MIRACLE
RICE STRAINS FROM SAIGON.

18. WP'S JACK ANDERSON CITES CRITICS AS SAYING THAT HASC
CHAIRMAN HEBERT IS "PENTAGON'S PUPPET." FINDS CONFIRMATION
OF CRITICISM, NOTING THAT MAY 10 HEBERT REPORT SUPPORTING
1.4 BILLION IN MIL ASSISTANCE TO SVN BORROWED ALMOST
WORD FOR WORD OF PENTAGON'S CHIEF WITNESS, GEN. CALDWELL,
WHO APPEARED BEFORE HEBERT COMMITTEE ON MARCH 26.

CHINA

19. WP'S GREENWAY IN NOTES THAT TENG HSIAO-PING
RATHER THAN CHOU IS PLAYING PRIMARY ROLE IN MAKARIOS
VISIT. SAYS CHOU'S DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY
GOES DEEPER THAN MERE PROTOCOL, THERE BEING REASON
TO BELIEVE MAY BE POLITICAL MOTIVES INVOLVED AS WELL
AS OFT-REPEATED EXPLANATION ABOUT CHOU'S ILLNESS.
CITES CHINA WATCHERS SUGGESTING WE MAY BE WITNESSING
CHOU'S GRADUAL ABDICATION FROM DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING
OF GOVT.

SINCE TENG WAS DENOUNCED AS "SECOND CAPITALIST ROADER"
AFTER LIU SHAO-CHI, QUESTION ARISES HOW DID
HE GO FROM SECOND MOST HATED VILLAIN TO WHAT APPEARS
TO BE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT OFFICIAL IN JUST 8 YEARS.
NOT ENOUGH IS KNOWN ABOUT STRESSES AND STRAINS OF
INTERNAL CHINESE POLITICS TO ANSWER QUESTION, BUT
BEHIND FACADE OF MASS POLITICAL CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE
CONFUCIUS AND LIN PIAO THERE APPEARS TO BE SUCCESSION
STRUGGLE. SOME SAY TENG MAY BE MAO'S PERSONAL CHOICE,
BUT MORE LIKELY HIS INCREASING INFLUENCE IS RESULT
OF SOME INTERNAL COMPROMISE BETWEEN POLITICAL FACTIONS
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AND FACT THAT MAO FEELS HE NEEDS TENG JUST NOW.
HAVING ONCE BEEN KNOCKED DOWN FOR TAKING CAPITALIST
ROAD, TENG WOULD APPEAR TO REPRESENT MUCH OF WHAT
THE LEFT MOST RESENTS. BUT ONLY HIGH POLITICAL

PERSONALITIES DENOUNCED SO FAR BY NAME HAVE BEEN ARMY MEN, MOST NOTICEABLY LI TEH-SHENG, AND SOME CHINA WATCHERS SEE TENG'S RISE AS ARMY'S PRICE FOR ALLOWING ITSELF TO-BE PUSHED FURTHER OUT OF MAGIC CIRCLE OF POWER.

GREENWAY NOTES THAT CHOU'S MODERATE POLICIES COMING UNDER INCREASING ATTACK; ALLUDES TO RED FLAG ARTICLE CALLED "STRUGGLE BETWEEN RESTORATION AND COUNTER-RESTORATION IN THE COURSE OF FOUNDING THE CHIN DYNASTY," FIRST PUBLISHED LAST NOV. TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH AND NOW IN APRIL 26 ISSUE OF PEKING REVIEW. ARTICLE APPEARS TO DRAW ANALOGY BETWEEN CHIN STATE PM FAN SUI AND CHOU. FAN DESCRIBED AS REP OF LEGALIST SCHOOL, AND THEREFORE BASICALLY GOOD PERSON - NOT CLASS ENEMY AS WERE CONFUCIANISTS. HE IS GIVEN CREDIT FOR "CENTRALIZATION OF AUTHORITY" AND FOR SOME WISE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOVES, SUCH AS CRITICIZING FORMER POLICY OF "ATTACKING THE DISTANT STATES AND KEEPING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH NEARBY STATES, AND PUTTING FORWARD THE POLICY OF KEEPING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH DISTANT STATES AND ATTACKING NEARBY STATES." NO ONE IN CHINA WILL MISS POINT THAT US IS DISTANT STATE WHILE USSR IS NEARBY STATE. BUT "ALTHOUGH FAN SUI BECAME PRIME MINISTER, HE WAS ACTUALLY SITTING ATOP VOLCANO THAT COULD ERUPT AT ANY TIME. INFLUENCE OF THE OLD ARISTOCRATS AT TIME WAS STILL QUITE POWERFUL IN CHINA. AGAINST SUCH BACKGROUND OF CLASS STRUGGLE, FAN SUI WAVERED AND ASKED TO RETURN SEAL OF PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE OF ILLNESS. " ATTITUDE OF MOST CHINA WATCHERS IS SUMMED UP BY ONE WHO SAID IF CHINESE WANT US TO BELIEVE CHOU IS NOT IN DIFFICULTIES, WHY DO THEY PRINT THINGS LIKE THIS?

20. JOE ALSOP (SUN, WP) NOTES ESCALATION OF SINO-SOVIET RECRIMINATIONS AND THREATS OVER DOWNED HELICOPTER CREW. NOTES ALSO THAT SOVIETS HAVE ESTABLISHED "UNIQUE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEW MILITARY DISTRICT, CONTAINING TWO EXTREMELY POWERFUL ARMIES, BOTH OFFENSIVELY EQUIPPED" ON SINKIANG BORDER; SOVIET RADAR AND AIR CONTROL SYSTEM IN AREA IS SO DENSE IT IS 9 TO 1 THAT HELICOPTER DID NOT GO ASTRAY AS RUSSIANS ALLEGED. "STAGGERINGLY COSTLY SOVIET MILITARY PREPARATIONS ALONG THE WHOLE CHINESE BORDER ARE STILL CONTINUING, ALTHOUGH NOW THE BUILDUP MAINLY TAKES THE FORM OF STRENGTHENING EXISTING SOVIET UNITS. BUT THE MAIN POINT IS THAT THIS VAST SOVIET MILITARY EFFORT HAS REACHED A STAGE WHERE THE MASTERS OF THE KREMLIN HAVE ONLY TO PUSH THE BUTTON, AS IT WERE, IN ORDER TO EFFECT THE NUCLEAR CASTRATION OF CHINA."

INDICATES THAT ANY SOVIET OFFENSIVE WOULD BE PRECEDED BY ANOTHER SOVIET-MANUFACTURED INCIDENT FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSE. ALSO BELIEVES THAT USSR WILL DESPERATELY

NEED TO SCORE IF HAK'S ME DIPLOMACY SUCCEEDS. IN THIS CONNECTION, FORMERLY PRO-SOVIET ARABS ARE RESPECTERS OF FORCE, AND THEIR MINDS WOULD BE CHANGED BY CHINA'S SUCCESSFUL CASTRATION. FINALLY, USSR MUST BE TEMPTED BY WATERGATE-INDUCED PARALYSIS THAT WILL MAKE PRES POWERLESS TO PARRY THREAT TO CHINA.

JAPAN

21. SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO REPORTS 560,000-MEMBER JAPAN TEACHERS UNION OPPOSING AS "DENIAL OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHT," AND RAISING DANGER OF REVIVAL OF MILITARISM AND NATIONALISM, TANAKA'S ANNOUNCEMENT LAST WEEK OF "5 MUSTS AND 10 REFLECTIONS" HE WANTS SCHOOLCHILDREN TO MEMORIZE. AMONG PROPOSED MORAL RULES ARE EXHORTATIONS TO "VALUE THE COUNTRY AND SOCIETY," "OBEY PARENTS AND TEACHERS," "NOT TROUBLE OTHERS," AND "OBEY TRAFFIC RULES." TANAKA SAYS HE TRIED TO AVOID ANY PRECEPTS THAT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS ANTI-DEMOCRATIC, BUT TEACHERS UNION AND MANY LIBERAL PARENTS ARE SUSPICIOUS OF ANY UNIFORM CODE THAT ALL CHILDREN MUST MEMORIZE AND RECITE. UNDER MILITARY DICTATORSHIP THAT LED JAPAN INTO WWII, STUDENTS WERE REQUIRED TO RECITE MORAL CODE THAT WAS SIMILAR UNCLASSIFIED

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IN MANY RESPECTS TO TANAKA PROPOSAL. SEIDEN SEES MORAL EDUCATION AS MAJOR ISSUE IN JULY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

AUSTRALIA

22. LAT'S LAMB IN SYDNEY (MAY 17) REPORTS COMMONWEALTH COMMISSION REPORT RECOMMENDING THAT ABORIGINES IN NORTHERN TERRITORY BE FREEHOLD OWNERS OF THEIR TRADITIONAL LAND AND SHARE IN ITS MINERAL WEALTH. REPORT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT NO MORE MINERAL EXPLORATION LICENSES ON ABORIGINE LAND BE GRANTED UNTIL AT LEAST 1977; AFTER THAT, MINING SHOULD BE PERMITTED ONLY WITH ABORIGINE APPROVAL OR IF GOVT. DECIDES IT IS IN NATIONAL INTEREST. RECOMMENDATIONS ENDORSED BY FEDERAL GOVT. AND WHITLAM SAID HIS GOVT. WOULD MEET WITH ABORIGINE COUNCILS AND COMMUNITIES WITH HOPE OF ENACTING LEGISLATION AFTER MAY 18 ELECTION. MILITANT URBAN SPOKESMEN FOR ABORIGINES HAVE MADE LAND RIGHTS THEIR FOREMOST ISSUE; THEY WANT COMPLETE AUTHORITY TO OWN AND OPERATE THEIR LAND. REPORT REJECTS THIS DEMAND, SAYING MINERALS SHOULD REMAIN PROPERTY OF GOVT. MAINLY BECAUSE EARTH'S

WEALTH BELONG TO ALL AUSSIES. RUSH

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